

The American Optometric Association ("AOA") has adopted a Resolution to recognize the validity and reliability of the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) Test as a component of a Standard Field Sobriety Test when administered by properly trained and certified police officers and when used in combination with other evidence. Following extensive and in-depth review during 2010 and 2011, the AOA's House of Delegates passed the Resolution by majority vote at the House of Delegates session on June 18, 2011 during AOA's annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. The text of the Resolution is below. With the adoption of the Resolution, Optometry once again demonstrates that it is the relevant scientific and/or medical community with regard to the HGN Test, and AOA confirms that it supports Optometrists as consultants for the law enforcement community's efforts to improve public health, safety, and welfare by identifying and reducing the number of impaired drivers on the nation's roadways. Questions or comments can be addressed to the American Optometric Association, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141.

AOA HOD RESOLUTION 1901

HORIZONTAL GAZE NYSTAGMUS AS A FIELD SOBRIETY TEST

WHEREAS, drivers under the influence of alcohol pose a significant threat to the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, optometric scientists and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration have shown the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) test to be a scientifically valid and reliable tool for trained police officers to use in field sobriety testing; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association acknowledges the scientific validity and reliability of the HGN test as a field sobriety test when administered by properly trained and certified police officers and when used in combination with other evidence; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association supports doctors of optometry as professional consultants in the use of HGN field sobriety testing.